

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Pending Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A method of Maintenance Power Control (MPC) for a subscriber unit (SU) which conducts wireless communication with a base station in a wireless communication system, the method comprising:

providing a transmitter having an awake phase for transmitting signals to a base station which are initialized at a selected initial power level and a powered down sleep phase;

when in said powered down sleep phase, periodically activating the transmitter to transmit a status signal; and

adjusting the selected initial power level downwardly when a reply signal is received and upwardly when no reply signal is received within a predetermined time period of the transmission ~~of a~~ of the status signal whereby the selected initial power level is maintained at a level for efficient system communications.

2. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~periodically activating the transmitter~~ is periodically activated to transmit ~~a status~~ the status signal is for periods of no more than 10 seconds.

3. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~periodically activating the transmitter~~ is periodically activated to transmit ~~a status~~ the status signal is

in a random period which averages no more than 10 seconds.

4. (original): The method of claim 3 wherein the selected initial power level is adjusted both upwardly and downwardly in increments of 0.5 dB.

5. (original): The method of claim 4 for a SU of a spread spectrum communication system using code division multiple access wherein the status signal is a symbol length spreading code sent on a status channel of a spread spectrum communication signal and the reply signal is a symbol length spreading code sent on a check-up channel of a spread spectrum communication signal.

6. (original): The method of claim 5 wherein the predetermined time period is 3ms.

7. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the selected initial power level is adjusted in increments of 0.5 dB.

8. (original): The method of claim 1 for a SU of a spread spectrum communication system using code division multiple access wherein the status signal is a symbol length spreading code sent on a status channel of a spread spectrum communication signal and the reply signal is a symbol length spreading code sent on a check-up channel of a spread spectrum communication signal.

9. (original): The method of claim 8 wherein the predetermined time period is 3ms.

10. (original): The method of claim 8 wherein the selected initial power level is adjusted in increments of 0.5 dB.

11. (currently amended): A subscriber unit (SU) having Maintenance Power Control (MPC) for wireless communication with a base station in a wireless communication system, the SU comprising:

a transmitter having an awake phase for transmitting signals to a base station which are initialized at a selected initial power level and a powered down sleep phase;

a receiver and associated MPC circuitry for controlling the selected initial power level of said transmitter;

said transmitter, when in said powered down sleep phase, configured to become periodically active to transmit a status signal; and

said receiver and associated MPC circuitry configured to adjust the selected initial power level downwardly when a reply signal is received and upwardly when no reply signal is received within a predetermined time period whereby the selected initial power level is maintained at a level for efficient system communications.

12. (original): The SU of claim 11 for a spread spectrum communication system using code division multiple access wherein said transmitter is configured to transmit status signals as symbol length spreading codes sent on a status channel of a spread spectrum communication signal and said receiver is configured to receive reply signals as symbol length spreading codes sent on a check-up channel of a spread spectrum communication signal.

13. (currently amended): The SU of claim 12 wherein said transmitter is configured to periodically activate to transmit ~~a status~~ the status signal in a random period

which averages no more than 10 seconds.

14. (original): The SU of claim 11 for a spread spectrum communication system using code division multiple access wherein said transmitter is configured to transmit status signals as symbol length spreading codes sent on a status channel of a spread spectrum communication signal and said receiver and associated MPC circuitry is configured to adjust the selected initial power level both upwardly and downwardly in increments of 0.5 dB.